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Date: December 30, 2003

To: Examiner Zandra V. Smith
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From: James S. Hsue

Subject: Application No. 09/742,029

Our Ref.: TNCR.182US0

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Guoheng Zhao et al.
Title: Systems for Measuring Periodic Structures
Application No.: 09/742,029 Filing Date: Dec. 20, 2000
Examiner: Zandra V. Smith Group Art Unit: 2877
Docket No.: TNCR.182US0 Conf. No.: 8669

San Francisco, California
December 30, 2003

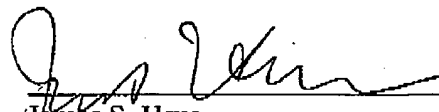
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P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Madam:

We have the following comments on the reasons for allowance in regard to claims 12, 16, 29, 34, 45 and 51. We note that the Examiner has grouped together the various limitations in these claims into the reasons for allowance of all six claims, whereas in fact, only some but not all of these limitations would be present in each of the individual six claims. For example, the altering of the first angle is present only in claims 12 and 16, where the first angle is between a polarization plane and the plane of incidence, rather than between two planes of polarization in the reasons for allowance. The "repeating" is present only in claim 12 and not in the remaining five claims. The instrument for rotating the first element relative to the plane of incidence is present only in claims 16 and 45 and not in the remaining four claims. The limitation of a second instrument causing translational motion between the first instrument and the system in a second direction transverse to the first direction is present only in claim 29, even though claims 34 and 51 contain the limitation of a second instrument causing motion between the first instrument and the system without requiring such motion be translational.

Respectfully submitted,


James S. Hsue
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